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Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/65/89, A/65/91, A/65/92, A/65/113, A/65/114, A/65/116, A/C.3/65/L.2, A/C.3/65/L.4, A/C.3/65/L.5, A/C.3/65/L.6 and E/2010/30 (Supplement No. 10))

Agenda item 106: International drug control (*continued*) (A/65/89, A/65/93 and A/C.3/65/L.3)

1. **Mr. Venugopal** (India) said that one of the important findings of the World Drug Report 2010 was the steady global reduction in the cultivation of crops used to produce illicit drugs, since 2007. India intended to fight steadfastly against the illicit drug threat at the national, regional and international levels. In that regard, in 2008, it had launched a scheme for the prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse which had made various services available to addicts, with a focus on awareness-raising, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

2. As one of the largest producers of legal opium, India was committed to using a balanced drug control policy aimed at maintaining demand and supply for legal medical and scientific purposes. In that regard, it welcomed the contribution of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

3. India had long been a victim of terrorism, which was a serious threat to all States and required concerted global action. It was a party to the 13 United Nations conventions on the question and supported the Secretary-General's invitation for Member States to take steps towards the adoption of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would be a useful complement to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, India welcomed the launch of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which would allow the adoption of integrated, balanced and coherent results-oriented and human-rights-based measures.

4. With regard to transnational organized crime, India supported the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to strengthen national capacities and help States to put in place the necessary administrative and legal frameworks and to reform their institutions. It therefore associated itself with the appeal by Jamaica, on behalf of the Caribbean Community, to UNODC to reconsider its decision to

close its regional office in Barbados, which served 29 countries. India had enacted strict anti-money-laundering laws and concluded bilateral agreements with a view to conducting joint programmes to combat money-laundering, terrorism and transnational organized crime. In addition, India had decided to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. It was also concerned about the emergence of new types of transnational organized crime such as cybercrime and economic fraud. India was determined to work towards ridding the world of such scourges through regional and international cooperation.

5. **Ms. Phommachanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that it was important for the international community to make a concerted effort to combat criminality in all its guises. The principle of common and shared responsibility should continue to prevail in the fight against the global drug problem, with priority given to strategies to reduce supply and demand.

6. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was concerned about the resumption of opium poppy cultivation, which had been practically eliminated in 2006, as well as the alarming level of trafficking in heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants. Poverty was one of the main factors behind the cultivation of plants used to produce illicit drugs, so it was crucial to offer adequate and sustainable livelihoods to the people involved.

7. In order to address the drug trafficking for which the country remained a hub, the Government had created a drug-control steering committee, chaired by the Prime Minister. Domestic legislation in that regard had been strengthened and, in coordination with UNODC, the country had finalized a national drug control plan, with the aim of combating supply and proposing alternative prospects. It had also strengthened its cooperation with neighbouring countries.

8. **Mr. Gonzáles** (El Salvador) said that the recent massacre of 72 migrants in Mexico, including 14 Salvadorians, highlighted the links between crime and international migration, particularly in extremely vulnerable regions like Central America. He therefore invited the international community to strengthen its cooperation in those areas and urged United Nations bodies to promote an integrated global effort to combat criminality in all its forms, since the problem involved

all countries and was caused by poverty, injustice, the lack of alternatives, social exclusion and impunity. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols provided a legal framework for cooperation. However, such cooperation must not have the effect of exhausting the limited resources of developing countries, in particular. Coordinated and courageous political efforts were therefore needed from all parties, with political and technical support from the United Nations.

9. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that his country, which was experiencing a period of instability, had become a party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2007 and intended to work with the international community to strengthen civil society and combat the corruption blighting its institutions.

10. The Maldives had regrettably been classified as a Tier 2 Watch List country in the Trafficking in Persons Report, published by the United States. Nevertheless, the Government of the Maldives had taken a number of measures to address the situation, notably by improving police training and creating an independent human rights commission, which had published a report containing recommendations on the matter. Since it did not have the necessary resources to implement those recommendations, to carry out investigations or help victims, the Government appealed for regional and international cooperation.

11. Lastly, in view of its geographic position, the Maldives was no stranger to the detrimental effects of drug addiction, in particular the use of opiates. It had taken measures to identify and treat the causes of the problem at the national level and, with the help of UNODC, had developed a drug control plan in 2006.

12. **Mr. Abay** (Ethiopia) said that Member States had an obligation to find solutions, put in place the necessary institutions and train the necessary human resources in order to address the drug problem, which was a serious threat to human health and well-being, socio-economic and political stability and good governance.

13. Situated at the crossroads between Africa and the Middle East, Ethiopia was highly vulnerable to drug trafficking and had taken various measures to combat that scourge in an integrated manner, in particular through the introduction of a national policy to combat the illegal production, distribution and use of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the promulgation of

regulations on their supply, stockpiling and distribution. In addition, the Criminal Code stipulated severe penalties for drug traffickers and addicts. Ethiopia thanked UNODC for the technical assistance it had provided in the elaboration of its national drug control plan for 2010-2014.

14. Since the drug phenomenon transcended all sectors, Ethiopia had recently created an inter-ministerial coordination committee for drug control. Lastly, the Ethiopian delegation believed that it was crucial to strengthen cooperation between all the parties concerned at the regional and international levels, as well as with development partners, in order to eliminate that global scourge.

15. **Mr. Gutiérrez** (Peru) said that his delegation welcomed the reduction in poppy and coca cultivation and in global opium production, but stressed that the fight against illicit drugs must be stepped up and conducted on several fronts: the prohibition and eradication of illegal crops on the one hand, and preventive measures and the implementation of alternative development programmes on the other. As a result of its national five-year drug control plan, introduced in 2007, and the alternative development models such as the "San Martín" model, drug supply had been considerably reduced in Peru.

16. However, the effectiveness of the fight against drugs depended on international cooperation, which had been declining for several years. Developed countries, consumer countries in particular, must give it higher priority, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility. Without help from those States, vulnerable countries would have even more difficulty achieving the Millennium Development Goals, because the traffickers were taking advantage of instability, poverty and corruption. With a view to strengthening exchanges of information, experiences and good practices at the international level, Peru again invited UNODC to compile a report presenting the current data about all the resources devoted to combating the global drug problem in the context of international cooperation.

17. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that her country, aware of the importance of combating trafficking in persons, had amended its domestic legislation to meet its international obligations and in particular had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and

Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. At the executive level, it had enacted Decree No. 8 of 2005 establishing the National Office to Combat Human Trafficking and Decree No. 1 of 2008 making the Office a national institution and providing for the establishment of a shelter. At the regional and international levels, on 23 March 2010, at the Doha Foundation Forum, Qatar had launched the Arab initiative for building national capacities for combating human trafficking. With respect to combating drug trafficking, Qatar had implemented a national strategy for 2010-2015 to prevent the entry of drugs into the country by defining the mandates of the various national institutions, in coordination with the Standing Committee on Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in accordance with Qatar's national vision for 2030. On crime prevention, Qatar had established community policing, organized several workshops and developed strategies to strengthen the links between the people and the police within a framework of shared responsibility in order to tackle security issues.

18. She welcomed the action taken by the General Assembly on combating trafficking in persons, which had led to the adoption of specific measures by Qatar, although it was necessary to unite and coordinate all efforts to eliminate human trafficking worldwide.

19. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) pointed out that, despite the challenge presented by a border with Colombia over 2,000 kilometres in length, his country had become a global reference on combating drug trafficking. The Government had taken bold measures aimed at stopping cartels from using the country to supply the major markets in the United States and Europe. Venezuela ranked fourth in the world for seizures of narcotics; it had, *inter alia*, impounded more than 50 semi-submersible vessels undetectable by radar and capable of transporting over 10 tons of drugs each, seized a record quantity of some 47 tons of drugs, confiscated 12,000 tons of precursor chemicals intended for cocaine production and dismantled clandestine laboratories operating along the border.

20. Under agreements it had signed, 16 drug kingpins had recently been extradited and handed over to judicial authorities in their countries, mainly the United States, Colombia and European States. In addition, 51 drug lords had been arrested and more

than 6,000 traffickers had been tried and imprisoned. He recalled that in 2005 the Government had expelled the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, which had been engaging in espionage in Venezuela and violating its sovereignty. The Government had established a national plan to combat drug trafficking based on public involvement, and on 16 September 2010 had enacted a new law on the establishment of courts with jurisdiction over drug-related cases, an office in charge of selling seized property and a treatment service aimed at reintegrating drug addicts into society. Despite those successes, the United States continued to make unfounded accusations against Venezuela, which had nonetheless proved that it could eliminate drug trafficking without turning to foreign troops or giving up its sovereignty. Recalling that efforts to combat drug trafficking should not serve as a pretext for one State to impose domination over another, he requested the Security Council to refrain from intervening in matters that were within the purview of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Venezuela was determined to strengthen its cooperation with other States in combating drug trafficking in accordance with the principles set out in its constitution and in international law.

21. **Mr. Al-Shami** (Yemen) said that his country had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003, had ratified it in 2005 and had enacted several texts, such as Law No. 39 of 2006 establishing a national anti-corruption agency, Law No. 30 of 2006 on financial disclosure, Law No. 23 of 2007 on invitations to tender and Law No. 1 of 2010 on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Yemen had established mechanisms for surveillance and punishment and had conducted awareness-raising campaigns. It had also hosted the second regional conference of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network held in Sana'a in July 2010.

22. With respect to combating organized crime, Yemen had ratified several related instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. On combating drug trafficking, Yemen had apprehended and tried a number of traffickers. In 2002, it had established a general directorate in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and had set up border control posts at points of entry by land, sea and air. It had also signed several conventions and protocols on cooperation with States in the region. In

addition, Yemen had ratified many instruments and adopted preventive security measures and laws to suppress all forms of trafficking in persons. However, in his delegation's view, the best way of combating those crimes was to examine their root causes, punish the offenders, protect the victims, carry out awareness-raising campaigns, strengthen international cooperation and coordination and increase the number of international partnerships. Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, he expressed the hope that a voluntary fund to benefit victims of trafficking would soon be established.

23. Yemen participated actively in the international efforts to combat terrorism. Its security services had had significant success in recent years, having apprehended a number of terrorists and shut down several terrorist operations. Yemen nevertheless required assistance to build its national capacities and improve coordination in the areas of security and intelligence. He hoped that States, donor organizations and UNODC would provide technical and financial assistance in the form of training programmes to support his Government's efforts to combat criminal activities that threatened humanity.

24. **Mr. Sardjana** (Indonesia) said that more attention must be paid to such new forms of crime as cybercrime, trafficking in cultural property and the pillaging of natural resources, which caused harm not only to people but also to the ecosystem. Welcoming the Salvador Declaration adopted in April 2010 at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, he said that his country was determined to implement its conclusions and recommendations and to cooperate in strengthening Member States' capacities.

25. The fight against corruption remained one of the highest priorities of his Government, which had established a national plan of action comprising prevention and enforcement measures. In addition, deeming that enhanced international cooperation was required to combat corruption effectively, Indonesia had volunteered to participate ahead of schedule in the review process on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and had taken part in the pilot review programme of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

26. Indonesia remained firmly opposed to trafficking in persons and stressed that efforts should be aimed at both suppressing international trafficking networks more forcefully and ensuring protection for the victims. His Government welcomed the adoption of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and continued to enhance cooperation with regional partners through the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes, known as the Bali Process.

27. With respect to counter-terrorism, Indonesia, which had been a victim of terrorism, was of the view that its root causes must be tackled by strengthening law enforcement while ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. His Government continued to participate in numerous regional capacity-building and information-sharing programmes within the framework of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, in close partnership with the Australian Government.

28. Lastly, Indonesia hoped that Member States would respond more intensely to assist it in combating the increasing production of illicit drugs in the country and transnational trafficking, in which an alarming number of women and children were involved. Convinced that national anti-drug policies, to be effective, must take a multidisciplinary approach and include rehabilitation and treatment measures, his Government had established an alternative development programme aimed at offering new types of livelihood to urban drug traffickers. The keys to success would be enhanced international cooperation, shared responsibility and political will.

29. **Mr. Giade** (Nigeria) said that drug control was a priority for Nigeria, which was determined to prevent its territory becoming a transit hub for trafficking. The efforts it had made in that respect had already led a number of States to remove it from the drug majors watch list, and his Government was determined to combat drug trafficking and consumption and the related criminal activities.

30. Two Nigerian organizations were responsible for combating drugs, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). NDLEA had seized almost 115 tons of cannabis in 2009 and 450 kg of cocaine in 2010, and had arrested a

large number of criminals. It had also broken up a major international syndicate which was smuggling cocaine from South America through West Africa to Europe. It was also engaging in prevention, information and awareness promotion activities. NAFDAC for its part was responsible for combating the abuse of licit and illicit drugs and the import and sale of sub-standard drugs and products. To that end, it conducted inspections and cooperated with those concerned at the local and international levels. It had also established an inter-agency committee to coordinate national efforts to combat the abuse of prescription drugs.

31. In the context of combating trafficking in illicit drugs, Nigeria had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom and had strengthened its cooperation with other countries, as well as with regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), under its West African Joint Operations Initiative, and the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA).

32. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that, while his country had taken an array of measures to combat crime and corruption, while respecting human rights, it remained aware of the cross-border nature of those scourges. It was thus seeking to implement some regional programmes with other member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), focusing inter alia on cooperation between police forces. In view of the great danger presented by crime and corruption, South Africa was awaiting with interest the forthcoming Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and hoped that it would be an occasion for the international community to demonstrate more clearly its political will and its support for that instrument. It also hoped that the General Assembly would take measures to follow up the decisions contained in the Declaration made at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime, particularly with respect to cybercrime and crimes affecting the environment.

33. To combat cannabis and cocaine, in particular, his Government had taken steps which had led to a decrease in illegal imports of precursors, and had drawn up awareness promotion programmes for young people.

34. South Africa, which fully supported the work of UNODC, stressed that the Office nevertheless needed increased financial and other resources, in order to be able to implement its broad mandate. It was also pleased to be able to cooperate with the other members of SADC and the secretariat in finalizing the UNODC Regional Programme for Southern Africa.

35. **Ms. Ivanović** (Serbia) said that national, regional and international police and judiciary cooperation was of paramount importance in ensuring the full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which her country was a party. The States of south-eastern Europe offered an example of fruitful cooperation in that respect. Thus, Serbia had just concluded an extradition agreement with Croatia, and was prepared to sign agreements of that type with other countries of the region. Nine of them had undertaken, in a memorandum concluded following a ministerial conference on cooperation in combating organized crime in south-eastern Europe, to conduct prevention activities, exchange information, establish joint investigation teams and harmonize legislations.

36. With respect to illegal migrations and drug trafficking, various regional initiatives had yielded positive results. Thus the members of the Regional Cooperation Council had recently agreed to cooperate in the field of military intelligence with a view to building mutual confidence and strengthening security in the region.

37. Serbia welcomed the recent adoption of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, and was taking concrete steps to combat illegal migrations and human trafficking. For example, the Government had adopted a strategy against illegal migrations for the period 2009-2014, as well as a National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, and had established a coordinating body to monitor and manage migrations with a view to coordinating activities designed to prevent illegal migrations and developing capacities for combating trafficking effectively, while fully respecting human rights and making provision for the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.

38. **Mr. Al-Hamadi** (United Arab Emirates) said that his country spared no effort to combat transnational organized crime in all its forms, including trafficking

in persons, money-laundering, drug trafficking and other illicit activities. It had done so by drawing up national strategies, building bilateral partnerships, engaging in international cooperation and ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocol for the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children. As a member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, it had participated in combating trafficking in persons and supported the adoption by the General Assembly, in August 2010, of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons. It had also contributed to financing the United Nations Global Initiative, which testified to its readiness to combat that crime and encourage the exchange of knowledge and information in that respect. The United Arab Emirates had adopted an integrated national strategy for combating trafficking in persons based on four major lines of approach: criminalization, respect for the law, assistance to victims and international cooperation. It had revised some of its legislation and had adopted effective measures for protecting victims, arresting criminals and promoting public awareness. It had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with labour-exporting countries.

39. Where money-laundering was concerned, in 2000 the United Arab Emirates had established a national commission to coordinate the guidelines against money-laundering and regulate the *hawala* system to prevent the financing of terrorism. It had also signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, and had adopted the principles of the Basel Committee and the Forty Recommendations of Financial Action Task Force against Money Laundering. It had concluded memorandums of understanding in that respect with 24 countries and was participating actively in combating trade and financing offences in the context of regional and international groups.

40. In the area of drug control, his country had adopted a national plan focused on participation by society, awareness promotion and treatment of addicts, and had opened treatment centres for them. As a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it would continue to support the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other competent international authorities to combat crime in all its

forms, and called on States to strengthen international cooperation in that area.

41. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) said that the vicious circle of supply and demand was a major factor in the development of international organized crime and emphasized that Pakistan, as a party to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, had taken legislative and legal measures to implement the provisions of those two instruments. Thus, thanks to a strategy that combined punishment and incentives with substitution activities, it had succeeded in eliminating illicit opium production and had established a master plan for 2010-2014 designed to reduce the supply of and demand for narcotics.

42. Pakistan was convinced that cooperation was essential in that undertaking, and had participated actively in various regional and international initiatives aimed at stemming trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors, including the Rainbow Strategy of UNODC and the Triangular Cooperation Initiative with Afghanistan and Iran.

43. Pakistan welcomed the adoption of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, and had adopted an ordinance on the prevention and control of trafficking in persons, which made ample provision for rehabilitation of victims; it had also established a body with special responsibility for prosecuting traffickers.

44. Pakistan was also a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and had adopted in 2010 a law against money-laundering which established a financial control service to cooperate with the banks of other countries in those areas. Pakistan had also embarked on a reform of its criminal justice system and on establishing the principles of accountability and transparency in the police force, and had implemented a system for the evaluation and comparison of personal identification information (the PISCES system) which made it possible to strengthen border controls.

45. **Mr. Ahmed** (Bangladesh) emphasized that despite its limited resources and the porosity of its borders, his country was committed to addressing the drug problem. It was a party to the three major drug-control conventions and had strengthened the suppression of drug trafficking, which was subject to severe penalties, including capital punishment. In view of the direct link between organized crime and illegal

money, Bangladesh was strengthening its cooperation with international agencies and its development partners in order to combat laundering of assets. As asset recovery was a complicated procedure, the Government requested assistance in that respect from all States, particularly those which were parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

46. With regard to combating international terrorism, Bangladesh was a party to the thirteen international instruments on that subject, and had *inter alia* adopted a law against money-laundering in 2008 and an anti-terrorist law in 2009. The Government had also hosted, in November 2009, a regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors on countering terrorism in South Asia.

47. Combating trafficking in persons was a top priority for Bangladesh; he welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and hoped to see Member States cooperating in that undertaking, given the nature of the phenomenon.

48. Lastly, in his delegation's view transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, trafficking in persons and money-laundering were social scourges that were closely interlinked and affected all countries, and particularly the least developed countries, which did not possess the resources to cope with them. That being so, Bangladesh expected a great deal of the international community in that regard, and was for its part ready to cooperate fully with it.

49. **Mr. Al-Harty** (Saudi Arabia), after commending UNODC for all it had done to promote technical cooperation and enhance coordination of efforts to counter trafficking in persons and assuring it of his Government's wholehearted support in the context of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, said that criminal justice had greatly evolved in his country in respect of investigations, criminal proceedings, mediation, legal aid, arrest, custody and pretrial detention. Under article 47 of the Constitution the right to litigation was guaranteed to all citizens.

50. Saudi Arabia had tightened its drug laws. A special office within the Ministry of the Interior was working with a national committee to combat drug addiction to implement a strategy that focused on awareness-raising, local initiatives, treatment of drug addicts and cooperation with Arab and other States. In

addition, the relevant authorities had set up programmes to reintegrate drug addicts into society. Notwithstanding the successes achieved, drugs continued to be a problem; indeed, in recent years the problem had worsened. The police had recently seized 8 million tablets of Captagon, 20 kilos of heroin and 2 tons of hashish.

51. Saudi Arabia wished to cooperate with the international community in the fight against drugs, and believed that it was essential to respect the international regional and bilateral agreements in that area.

52. **Mr. Han** (Myanmar), noting with pleasure that opium poppy cultivation and heroin production had declined, said that Myanmar was a party to all three international drug control conventions. It had set up a national framework, had signed a cooperation agreement with five States in the region and was also participating in joint operations with the ASEAN States and China.

53. Since poverty was one of the principal factors encouraging poppy cultivation in the border areas, his Government had introduced a strategy based on reduction of supply, reduction of demand and law enforcement. It was also encouraging economic development in the border areas and promoting alternative development among farmers. As a result, opium production in Myanmar had decreased by close to 60 per cent between 2002 and 2009.

54. His Government had been combating the drug problem with its own resources; it now called on the international community for assistance so that it could achieve its goal of eradicating drugs more swiftly.

55. **Mr. Mkhantar** (Morocco) said that criminal networks had become a complex reality and were a threat to international peace and security. After ratifying the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime in 2002, Morocco had amended some of its texts, including the new Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, with a view to bringing them into line with the Convention and had implemented a multisectoral national strategy for the prevention of organized crime. It had also undertaken to reform the administration and the justice system — essential pillars of the rule of law — and had enacted legislation to combat money-laundering and corruption, thereby completing its legal arsenal in that area.

56. It planned to continue assuming its responsibilities in the region. In May 2008, it had organized, in Rabat, in cooperation with UNODC, the fifth conference of Ministers of Justice of French-speaking African countries, which had drawn up a draft international convention on mutual legal assistance and extradition and, in August 2009, it had hosted the first ministerial meeting of African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

57. Given that no country could face those various threats alone, his Government reiterated its willingness to act in concert with the international community to fight the scourge of drugs in a spirit of shared responsibility. It had long been cooperating with the various bodies of the United Nations system, including UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). It was also concerned about the new consumption trends and the new routes for hard drugs — which went through Africa — and the links between drug trafficking, terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking in the sub-Saharan region. It had implemented a multidimensional strategy designed both to reduce production and demand and to encourage alternative activities, such as ecotourism projects. His Government was working to develop the northern part of the country in an effort to wipe out cannabis production with the help of the population.

58. Morocco had diversified its cooperation in that area and had inter alia set up a mechanism for mutual police and legal assistance. Although the strategies introduced at the national level were essential in order to fight those scourges, they would not succeed unless they were accompanied by sustained regional and international cooperation and appropriate technical assistance.

59. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) recalling the ties between drug trafficking and other forms of crime, stressed that the global fight against drugs must be extended to other criminal activities.

60. Her Government shared the concerns expressed in the UNODC World Drug Report 2010; it had been fighting the criminal organizations engaged in narcotics trafficking for decades and had developed an integrated strategy designed to reduce the supply of — and demand for — drugs and to counter drug-related criminality. The concerted actions of the Colombian institutions had produced positive results in the area of public health, well-being and security. In 2009, cocaine

production had fallen to its lowest level since 1999. The overall area under coca cultivation had been reduced, largely as a result of aerial spraying and eradication by hand. Alternative activities were central to Colombia's strategy to counter drugs and made it possible to offer a viable framework to people who gave up illicit crops and were financed with national resources.

61. In the view of her delegation, international cooperation based on the principle of joint and shared responsibility, coordination among countries, financial and technical cooperation and information-sharing were essential in order to fight money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. And yet, national efforts ran up against a lack of will and lack of cooperation on the part of all States. Given the transnational nature of those scourges, the international community must focus on countering them throughout the world. His delegation reaffirmed its unshakeable determination to continue working at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels by specific coordination and cooperation measures to eliminate that threat to the world.

62. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which had been adopted 10 years earlier, was an effective tool and must be made universal for it provided an essential framework for international cooperation based on trust, reciprocity and collaboration.

63. **Ms. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone) said that transnational organized crime, including terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking and piracy called for innovative measures.

64. With the help of UNODC, the West Africa Coast Initiative, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office for West Africa and INTERPOL, Sierra Leone had converted its joint interdiction task force into a transnational organized crime unit. It hoped that the initiative would be extended to the other members of the Economic Community of West African States so that they could build strong institutions to collectively address those challenges.

65. Deeply concerned by the consequences of the proliferation of small arms, her Government had established a national commission to deal with that issue and to promote sustainable development in the subregion. That mechanism would help to detect and

intercept the flow of arms and accelerate the process of incorporating the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and other Related Materials into national legislation.

66. As a State party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption Sierra Leone continued to address the issue of corruption by bringing corrupt officials to justice. The commission to counter corruption was reviewing the asset declaration process with a view to improving investigations into corrupt acquisition of wealth and possession of unexplained wealth. There was also an urgent need to increase surveillance of coastal and maritime borders in order to combat drug trafficking, piracy and human trafficking in order to strengthen regional integration, expand the basis for cooperation and improve security in West Africa and in other countries bordering the Atlantic.

67. Her Government reiterated its commitment to the global fight against transnational organized crime, for it was convinced that the drug problem was no longer a problem for just one State. She thanked UNODC for the technical assistance programme to develop Sierra Leone's prison reforms and called on the international community once again to provide financial and technical support to States in dire need of assistance, particularly those emerging from conflicts so that they could deal with that dangerous phenomenon.

68. **Ms. Klein** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that her organization was committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefited both migrants and host countries and had been working actively for more than 15 years to counter trafficking in persons; in so doing it had helped more than 15,000 victims.

69. IOM continued to advocate for the prosecution of all forms of human trafficking. It was building the capacity of Government and civil society institutions to address those challenges, inter alia by training officials, police forces and judges and by helping in the development of counter-trafficking legislation, policies and procedures. The recent adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was encouraging as there was still a need for raising awareness of that phenomenon. Efforts to counter human trafficking must also take into account the well-being of the victims.

70. Turning to the issue of terrorism she said that, as a consequence of the September 11 attacks, migration

was seen as a national security issue and measures aimed at preventing terrorism were explicitly linked to immigration policies. In its latest publication on the relationship between international terrorism and migration, IOM warned against linking migration too closely to security issues while, at the same time, pointing to a number of areas — such as border control, identification systems and biometrics, information exchange and cross-border cooperation and, finally, domestic laws and policies — where migration measures intersected with security issues.

71. As migration seemed destined to increase in the coming decades it was crucial to strengthen international cooperation and enhance global efforts to prevent terrorists and others from exploiting migration channels while at the same time meeting the positive aspirations of legitimate migrants and recognizing the many contributions the latter made to society and development.

72. IOM would continue working with Governments and national agencies to ensure that migratory flows were a positive force for the development of individuals and societies.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

